

Abstract of the Disclosure

The invention provides flexible disabling of disk sets. One or more disks in a RAID subsystem may be identified as temporarily inactive. The disk or disks are then marked as inactive by setting one of a set of bits associated with each disk in the RAID subsystem. If an inactivated disk is a data disk, marking it as inactive also marks it as read only. If an inactivated disk is a parity disk, the RAID group to which it supplies parity is also inactivated and a file system must look to a mirror of the inactivated RAID subsystem for its data. When a data disk is reactivated it is marked as read/write by clearing its associated bit. When a parity disk is reactivated it is also marked as read/write by clearing its bit, however, it is not available for use until it has synchronized its operation with its mirror.